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United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

Summary

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/67/290 and A/RES/61/16) ECLAC in addition to all the other regional commissions have been asked to provide regional inputs High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). Below is a summary of points of convergence among the positions of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in topics of potential relevance to the 2014 session of the HLPF. The report, *PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BASED ON THE TRILOGY OF EQUALITY*, LC/L.3843 expresses the outcomes of, and the spirit of statements made during regional consultations such as, *The Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the development agenda beyond 2015 and Rio+20* and *The Caribbean Forum: Shaping a Sustainable Development Agenda to Address the Caribbean Reality in the 21st Century, both held in Bogotá, Colombia, March, 2013, The regional consultation of civil society, Performing the future we want in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a Development Agenda post-2015, April 2013*and various other intergovernmental meetings and seminars held late of 2012 to May 2014 as well in ECLAC publications relevant to the Post-2015 development agenda.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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1. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/67/290 and A/RES/61/16) ECLAC in addition to all the other regional commissions have been asked to provide regional inputs High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR). Below is a summary of points of convergence among the positions of Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in topics of potential relevance to the 2014 session of the HLPF. The report, *PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BASED ON THE TRILOGY OF EQUALITY*, LC/L.3843 [2] expresses the outcomes of, and the spirit of statements made during regional consultations such as, *The Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the development agenda beyond 2015 and Rio+20* and *The Caribbean Forum: Shaping a Sustainable Development Agenda to Address the Caribbean Reality in the 21st Century, both held in Bogotá, Colombia, March, 2013, The regional consultation of civil society, Performing the future we want in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a Development Agenda post-2015, April 2013* [3] and various other intergovernmental meetings and seminars[4] held late of 2012 to May 2014 as well in ECLAC publications[5] relevant to the Post-2015 development agenda.

2. The report has been prepared by the secretariat of ECLAC in accordance with resolution 687(XXXV) The regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda6, adopted at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission7, whereby the member States request the secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the deliberations at the thirty-fifth session and the content of the document Compacts for Equality: Towards a Sustainable Future, a report identifying areas of convergence between the countries of the region as it regards the issues to be covered under the post-2015 development agenda8. As part of its analysis, the document also considers the common challenges of Latin America and the Caribbean considered as a middle-income region, vis-à-vis other regions, taking into account the specificities of the Caribbean small island developing States (SIDS) and structural gaps within middle-income countries.

3. The report was presented to the government of Peru in compliance with the mandate contained in resolution 687(XXXV)9 in its capacity as Chair of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission, as the contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the intergovernmental negotiation process leading towards the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. This report also considers the other two documents in the trilogy, Time for Equality: Closing Gaps, Opening Trails (2010 and Structural Change for Equality: An Integrated Approach to Development (2012) which contain valuable reflections that can help with identifying content for a Latin American and Caribbean regional post-2015 development agenda.

4. The report, PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BASED ON THE TRILOGY OF EQUALITY, focuses on addressing a number of cross-cutting issues that are of particular relevance to the ECLAC region (total poverty eradication, gender, environmental sustainability, urban development and sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and

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[2] This report is is part of ECLAC's input to the HLPF and AMR

[3] Organized by the Government of Mexico, with the support of ECLAC http://participacionsocial.sre.gob.mx/post2015gdl.php

[4] A list of the events can be found in Annex 2 of the report, *PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BASED ON THE TRILOGY OF EQUALITY*, LC/L.3843

[5] A list of publications and their links can be found in Annex 1 of the report, *PRELIMINARY REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BASED ON THE TRILOGY OF EQUALITY*, LC/L.3843

[6] Resolutions adopted May 9, 2014 at the Thirty-Fifth session of The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Lima, Peru http://periododesesiones.cepal.org/en/publicacion/resoluciones-aprobadas-en-el-trigesimo-quinto-periodo-de-sesiones

[7] http://periododesesiones.cepal.org/en

[8] Paragraph 1, 687 (XXXV) The regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda

[9] Paragraph 2, 687 (XXXV) The regional dimension of the post-2015 development agenda

production and issues of special concern for the Caribbean and landlocked countries) the importance of synergies between equality and inclusion (economic, social and environmental inclusion), the means of implementation (innovative financing mechanisms, technology and industrialization, SDGs and the post-2015 global processes, better statistical information for public policy and accountability frameworks) and the drivers of progress towards the post-2015 agenda (planning for sustainable development, the need for an enabling international environment, cooperation for equality, and guidelines for a sustainable development agenda).

5. At the centre of concerns in the Latin American and Caribbean region in relation to the post-2015 development agenda are the persisting challenges of eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. There is an urgent need to continue addressing social and economic inequalities, which have become so large and unsustainable that they contribute to social instability. Countries in the region are striving to advance towards greater equality and poverty eradication within their borders, but the results of these efforts depend to a large extent on the international environment and on a strong international agenda. To achieve sustainable development, the international community must address equality between countries (both developed and developing) and generations, while respecting the principles of sovereignty and common but differentiated responsibilities and considering the particular vulnerabilities and challenges of small island developing States (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), middle income countries (MICs), least developed countries (LDCs) and other countries in special situations.

6. The Latin American and Caribbean countries have been playing an active part in the global effort to forge a post-2015 development agenda. The individual countries have adopted differing stances in some areas, but they are nonetheless in agreement on at least seven points:

(i) The remaining achievement gaps in the Millennium Development Goals must be closed.

(ii) The situation in the region is changing, and there are emerging challenges to be met in such areas as energy, demographics, urbanization, natural disasters and public safety.

(iii) A new development model is needed: **one that is based on structural change for equality and environmental sustainability** and can close existing gaps in production and society.

(iv) The minimum threshold of social well-being has risen, which calls for **an agenda with the principle of equality at its core** and social policies with universal coverage.

(v) Policy and institutions matter, which means tackling key issues in terms of regulation, oversight, financing and governance.

(vi) A greater range of ways of measuring progress is needed, in addition to GDP indicators, in order to inform decision-making in respect of sustainable development paths.

(vii) Efforts have to be made to build a global system of governance for development. This process should provide genuine opportunities for socially participatory decision-making. Priority should be placed on achieving global policy coherence in the areas of sustainable development, fair trade, technology transfer, international financial reform and new financing mechanisms, advocacy of South-South cooperation and the strengthening of mechanisms for encouraging the participation of all members of society.

7. Any model of sustainable development must be underpinned by the principle of equality, enshrined in compacts that require dialogue and negotiation among stakeholders. Institutions are key to achieving structural change with equality: they must produce the agreements and arrangements needed to harmonize change in the production matrix, along with broader equality and environmental sustainability.